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EAST TIMOR
C.N.R.M.
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF MAUBERE RESISTANCE
CONSELHO NACIONAL DE RESISTENCIA MAUBERE

MEDIA RELASE
Six East Timorese prisoners disappear from Dili jail

East Timorese sources have informed from Dili today 13 June of the disapperance of the 6 East Timorese serving prison sentences in Dili's Comarca jail for their alleged involvement in the 12 November demonstration.

These prisoners are normally visited once a week by their families on Thursdays. Last Thursday 9 June the six could still be visited. Catholic priests say mass on Sundays in the prison. Yesterday, 12 June, a Jesuit priest noticed the absence of these six prisoners, and was told by other prisoners that they had been taken away in the early morning hours of Friday. No information about their whereabouts has so far been provided to their families by prison authorities.

It is to be noted that at about 1 am on Friday Dili was affected by a long total electricity blackout. Some have speculated that this could have been done on purpose to prevent any one seeing the prisoners transfer. Others speculate that their disappearance could be linked to the forthcoming visit to Dili of UN Commission of Human Rights Rapporteurs scheduled for early July.

The prisoners are:
Gregorio Saldanha, 31 years of age, single, sentenced for life;
Francisco Branco, 44, married 7 children, 15 years sentence;
Saturnino Belo, 29, single, 12 years;
Jacinto Neves R. Alves, 37, married 5 children, 10 years;
Juvencio Martins, 35, single, 6 years 8 months;
Filomeno Pereira, 37, single, 5 years 5 months.

This new violation of human rights and of Geneva Conventions once again illustrate Indonesian hypocrisy and contempt for international norms and standards.

Darwin, 13 June 1994.

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